Claims

I claim:

1. A system for recording a sequence of frames of a video, comprising:

a plurality of circular buffers, each buffer configured to store the frames in a sequential order;

means for selecting a plurality of disjoint sets of frames from the video, there being one set of frames selected for each buffer such that a first set selects a first fraction of the frames, each subsequent set of frames being a smaller fraction then a previous set of frames, and a last set of selected frames including remaining frames; and

means for sequentially storing each set of frames in a corresponding buffer.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the circular buffers are disk buffers.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein a most recent one of the frames overwrites an oldest one of the frames in a particular buffer when the particular buffer is full.

4. The system of claim 2 further comprising:

a cache buffer associated with each disk buffer, and wherein the frames are first stored to a corresponding cache buffer, and the cache buffer is written to the associated disk buffer when the corresponding cache buffer is full.

5.The system of claim 1 wherein each fraction is an integer power of two.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the video is a time-lapse sequence of frames.

7. A method for recording a sequence of frames of a video, comprising:

means for selecting a plurality of disjoint sets of frames from the video, there being one set of frames selected for each buffer such that a first set selects a first fraction of the frames, each subsequent set of frames being a smaller fraction then a previous set of frames, and a last set selected frames including a remaining set of frames; and

means for sequentially storing each set of frames in a corresponding buffer.